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The questionnaire contains 72 items designed to assess the value positions of individuals on nine dimensions. These dimensions represent value problems of relevance to the total American society and of particular concern to persons in the field of social work and related fields of general social welfare.

Value positions, and quite often value conflicts, with regard to each of these dimensions are discussed throughout the social work literature. Of the 72 items on the revised Social Values Test, 59 were selected from a prior test after an analysis was made of responses from 293 social workers. Approximately one-third of the social workers are members of the National Association of Social Workers and hold social work degrees; one third are graduate students in social work; and one third are persons who are engaged in social work but hold no advanced degree. Brief descriptions are given of each dimension. Some involve primarily cognitive orientation; some are primarily evaluative; and some combine cognitive and evaluative variables.

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ERIC Form 1

The University of Michigan
and
The Detroit Great Cities Project

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THESE SOCIAL QUESTIONS?*

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The attached questionnaire contains 72 items designed to assess the value positions of individuals on 9 dimensions. These dimensions represent value problems of relevance to the total American society, and are those of particular concern to persons in the field of social work and related fields of general social welfare. Value positions, and quite often value conflicts, with regard to each of these dimensions are discussed throughout the social work literature. In some cases a position is stated explicitly as part of a code for the profession of social work.

Of the 72 items in this revised test, 59 were selected from a prior test after analysis of responses of 293 social workers approximately one-third of whom are members of the National Association of Social Workers and hold professional social work degrees, one-third are students in a graduate school of social work, and one-third are persons employed as social workers who do not hold professional degrees in social work.[1] Cluster analysis of an intercorrelation matrix of items and item analysis of each dimension test have been used to select items believed to reflect several independent value positions as well as each of the a priori value dimensions described below. Thirteen new items were devised to provide each dimension with 8 items.

Below are brief descriptions of each dimension, followed by the list of items included in that dimension. Dimensions 6. and 9. involve primarily cognitive orientations. Dimension 4. mixes cognitive and evaluative orientations. The others are primarily evaluative.

For each dimension, the items are ordered serially from that having the highest correlation with the dimension score to the lowest, with the new items (whose correlation with the dimension is unknown) last. Thus, the first 9 items in the test are those with highest correlation coefficients with the total score for each dimension; the next 9 items are second highest correlation coefficients with the dimension scores; etc. Unless otherwise indicated, each item is correlated at $r \geq |.40|$ (product moment correlation coefficient) with the dimension score.

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*Revision of SOCIAL VALUES TEST, February, 1961

[1]A report on this study is in preparation.

April, 1964

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Items are scored from 1 to 4. For those listed with a plus, score "strongly agree" as "4"; for those with a minus, score "strongly agree" as "1."

In each case the end of the dimension described first represents a value position consistent with that espoused by professional social work. High scores are assigned to responses on each item representing this position and reflecting the end of the value continuum expressed first. The exact position of social workers or other respondents on each of these dimensions is not, however, predicted. Thus, for any one item there is no reason to expect the modal response for social workers to be a high score. Although the preliminary study finds that responses to seven of the dimensions vary significantly by amount of professional schooling among social workers, the position of other samples of social workers and of respondents from other professions is empirically undetermined.

Some of the items have been selected or adapted from other studies. Acknowledgement is made to: Robert F. Bales and Arthur S. Couch, "The Value Profile: A Factor Analytic Study of Value Statements" (unpublished report); Omnibus Personality Inventory, Center for Higher Education, Berkeley, California; Theodore Newcomb, 1960 Bennington Study; Edgar F. Borgatta, Values Section, The Multi-Level Personality Inventory, 1961.

SOCIAL VALUES TEST

Value Dimensions

1. Individual worth: Dignity and worth of every individual human life irrespective of differentiating criteria; importance of maximizing potential of every human being; individual goals more important than any system goals (society, family, etc.) vs. System goals: Groups (family, nation, society, etc.) more important than individuals, have pre-eminence.
   1+, 10-, 19-, 28+, 37-, 46-*, 55-#, 64+#

2. Personal liberty: The individual has a right to act according to his own dictates. vs. Societal control: Society has a right to exercise controls over individuals to insure its own and/or their survival and best interests.
   2-, 11-, 20+, 29+, 38+*, 47-*, 56-#, 65+#

3. Group responsibility: The group (government, society) is responsible for the welfare of all its members. vs. Individual responsibility: The individual is responsible for his own welfare.
   3-, 12+, 21+, 30-, 39-, 48-, 57+, 66+

4. Security-Satisfaction: The "good" man is produced in a social environment that recognizes his needs (biological and social) and provides maximum security for their satisfaction. vs. Struggle-Suffering-Denial: In the puritan tradition, these are desirable and necessary to produce the "good" man.
   4-, 13-, 22-, 31+, 40+, 49-, 58+, 67-

5. Relativism-Secularism: Few absolutes; pragmatic tests of morality. vs. Absolutism-Sacredness: Religiosity; absolute rules of life with superhuman sanction.
   5-, 14+, 23+&, 32-, 41-, 50-*, 59-#, 68-#

6. Changeable human nature: People can change with the social environment, control their own destiny. vs. Inherent human nature-fatalism: Human nature inherent or biologically fixed; a person's destiny controlled by fate.
   6+&, 15-, 24-, 33-, 42+&, 51-, 60-#, 69-#

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*$r \leq |.40|$ between item and total dimension score.

#New item; correlation with dimension score unknown.

&Wording modified from Social Work Values Test

7. Innovation-Change: Willingness to seek and accept new solutions to problems. vs. Traditionalism: Commitment to the ways of the past.
7-, 16+, 25-, 34+, 43-[&], 52+[*], 61+[*], 70+[#]

8. Diversity-Heterogeneity: A pluralistic society that allows for a wide range of values, opinions, life-styles, etc. is good, makes society strong. vs. Consensus-homogeneity-conformity: We should strain for these as ideals of society; dissent is undesirable.
8-, 17+, 26-[&], 35+[&], 44-, 53-[*], 62-[#], 71-[#]

9. Interdependence: Everyone's situation, including his personality, depends on others in the system. vs. Individual autonomy: A person determines his own situation more or less autonomously.
9-, 18-, 27-, 36-, 45-, 54+, 63+[#], 72+[#]

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[*] $r \geq |.40|$ between item and total dimension score.

[#] New item; correlation with dimension score unknown.

[&] Wording modified from Social Work Values Test